Dawn Skaggs, MA, Chief Program Officer
Non-Competitive Division

WID WORLD INSTITUTE on Disability

Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration
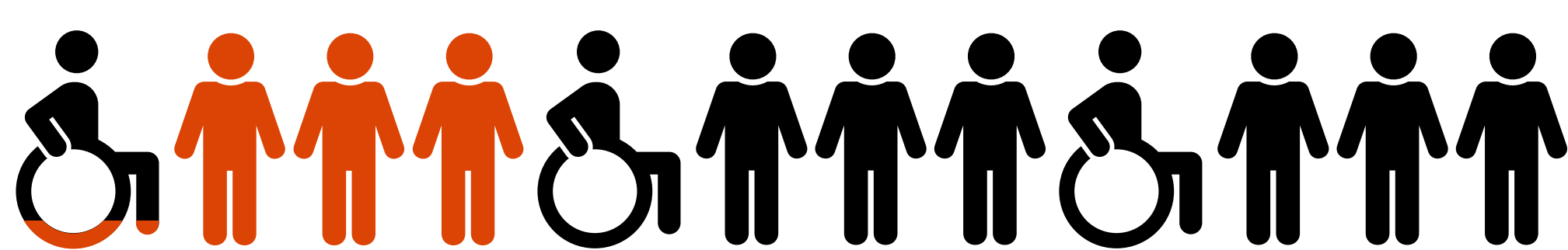
A Disability-Led and Technology Based Response

The Problem

People with disabilities are 2-4 times more likely to be injured or die resulting from disaster. They are consistently left behind, excluded from services and less likely to ever recover from a disaster.

In 2023 > $150 billion was spent in disaster response and humanitarian aid. Disability organizations, who represent a large percentage of climate impacted populations, received **less than 1%** of the funding.

$ Money spent in disasters for people with and without disabilities
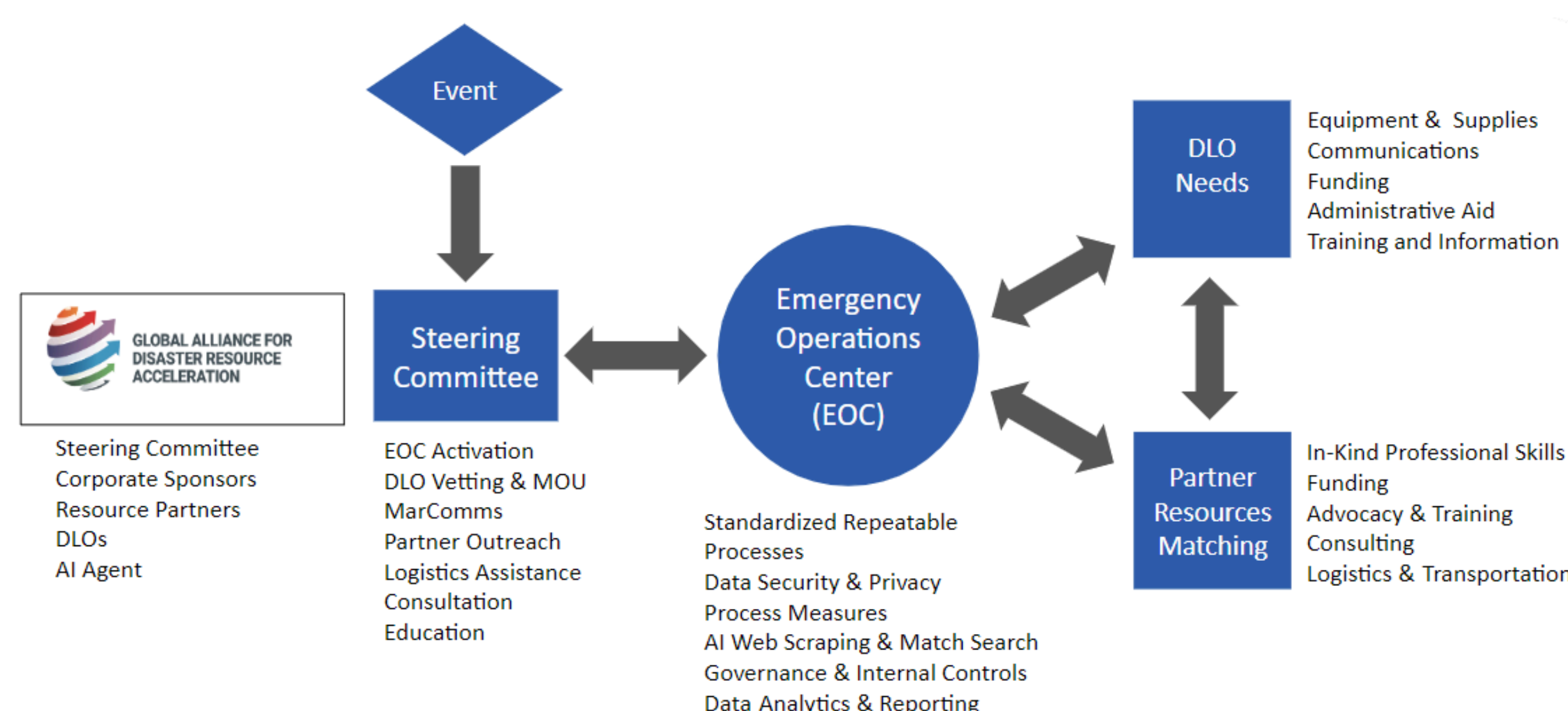
History

Over 1 in 4 people in the US and 1.3 billion people globally have a disability. In the US and many other countries that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabilities (UNCRPD) laws protect their rights and mandate equity. Human rights and **disability rights don't change in a disaster.**

In 2020, disability-led organizations, foundations, and corporations respond to COVID-19 to bridge the gap between the needs of people with disabilities excluded from traditional aid systems. Providing an alternative based on matching needs to resources through partnerships instead of charitable action.

Purpose

- **Equity in disaster response for people with disabilities**
- **Disability expertise as a valuable resource in decision making**
- **Sustained Public-Private Partnerships with community representatives**
- **Establish local capacity and expertise and build from local assets**
- **Match AI technology with human innovation for transformational outcomes for people with disabilities and others**
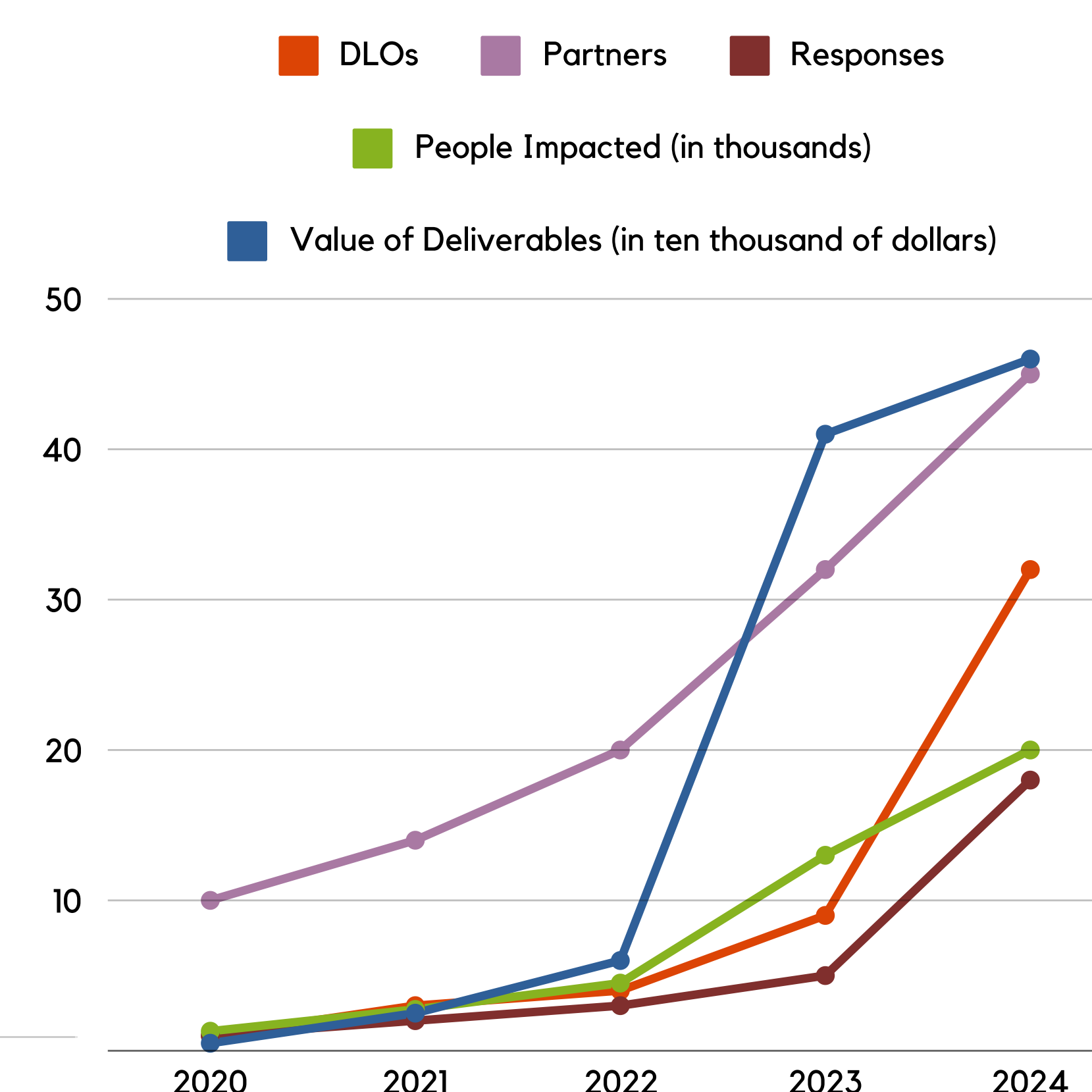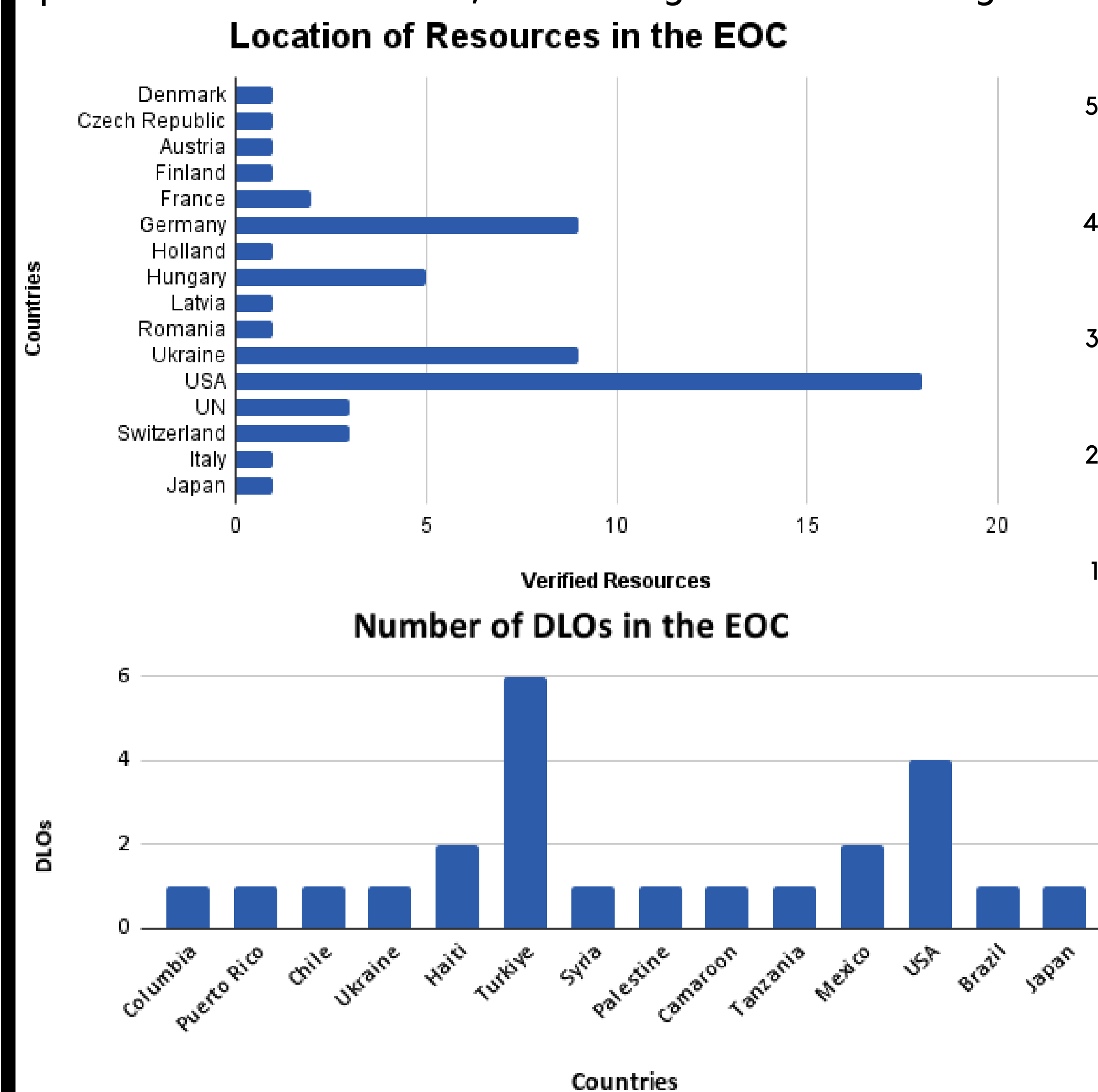
The Process

DLOs know their community needs, GADRA responds to assist the DLO and matches their needs to resources, then the DLO responds to community.

DLO Needs: Equipment & Supplies, Communications, Funding, Administrative Aid, Training and Information

Partner Resources Matching: In-Kind Professional Skills, Funding, Advocacy & Training, Consulting, Logistics & Transportation

Steering Committee, Corporate Sponsors, Resource Partners, DLOs, AI Agent

EOC Activation, DLO Vetting & MOU, MarComms, Partner Outreach, Logistics Assistance, Consultation, Education

Standardized Repeatable Processes, Data Security & Privacy, Process Measures, AI Web Scraping & Match Search, Governance & Internal Controls, Data Analytics & Reporting
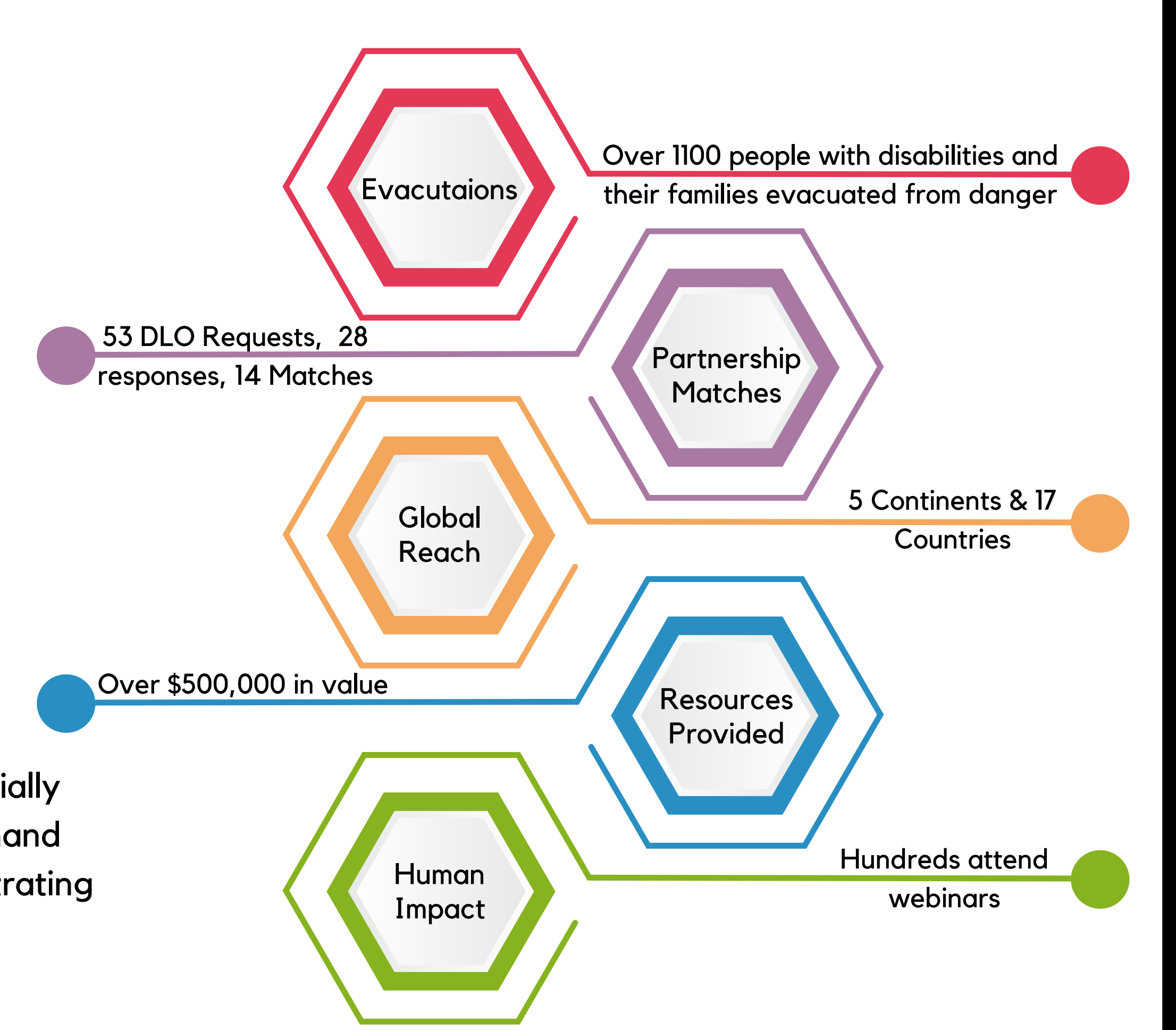
VIRTUAL EOC OUTCOMES

A Virtual Operations Center provides a GDPR secure, multilingual, accessible portal for organization applications, partner resource database, case management and tracking

Location of Resources in the EOC

Number of DLOs in the EOC

Legend: DLOs, Partners, Responses, People Impacted (in thousands), Value of Deliverables (in ten thousand of dollars)

GADRA's reach and impact has grown exponentially over four years with aggregate increases in demand and interest that is exceeding capacity. Demonstrating a need and ongoing gap in programmatic equity.

2020-2024 Response Deliverables for Disability-led Organizations, Responders, and Survivors

- Evacuations — Over 1100 people with disabilities and their families evacuated from danger
- 53 DLO Requests, 28 responses, 14 Matches
- Partnership Matches
- Global Reach — 5 Continents & 17 Countries
- Over $500,000 in value
- Resources Provided
- Human Impact — Hundreds attend webinars

Addition of AI

1. A meta search engine to conduct periodic predictive analysis to identify and prioritize potential assets
2. A dynamic query tool using a contextualized criteria database to identify and validate eligible disaster impacted organizations
3. A real-time information retrieval and recommender system that matches needs and resources
4. A public facing multilingual accessible dashboard and user interface with an AI agent facilitate supply chain logistics, direct organizations, and provide updates using real-time scenario-based information.

2025

- API integration with VOADS, jurisdictions, and responding agencies through shared disaster platform
- Disability-led organizations who have experience responding to disaster as part of a network
- Integration of disability leaders into preparedness, response, and recovery work
- Flexible and adaptable resources that can be shared among organizations, other NGOs and VOADs, and governments
- Machine learning that increases scope and scale of response capacity, minimizing inequity

Visionaries

Thank you to the following visionary partners:
- Americares
- Bristol Myers Squib
- Visionlink
- Tech To The Rescue
- Omdena
- MAC AI
- Partners at the:
  - University of California San Francisco
  - Gallaudet University

Affiliations